

LETTER FROM THE PRINCIPAL

My Dear Friends

Our autumn season is now upon us. Another lovely time of the year when nature prepares us for the cold winter months ahead.

Kentwood is busy preparing for the Junior Show at the beginning of November. They are all working very hard and I know you will all enjoy watching it. I am particularly thrilled that three of the Youth Choir have moved to the big Show Choir. Well done!!

The Cracker is well into rehearsal and selling fast. It would be nice to see more people this year at the AGM to be held on Tuesday 4th November at St Margaret's Centre, Stratton. It's worth attending to taste Mary's wonderful coffee cake afterwards!!

We had a super concert recently at Stockbridge near Andover. Yvonne has included in this newsletter some of the wonderful letters and comments we received. We are also looking forward to the Bacon Theatre in Cheltenham in December. This is with the Gloucester Flowers Band. It is always good singing to people who haven't heard us before.

Well, happy reading!

See you at the Cracker.

Kindest regards and love.

Sheila



**THE KENTWOOD SHOW CHOIR ASSOCIATION
ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

Please note that the AGM will be held on TUESDAY 4 November 2008 at the St Margaret's Centre, Kenwin Road, Stratton St Margaret, Swindon, Wilts commencing at 7.30pm. Refreshments will be available following the meeting.



CONCERT AT THE HILTON HOTEL ON 3 AUGUST 2008

In aid of Macmillan Cancer Support

We have a number of high profile fundraising events in the year and it is a pleasure to report that we have had a very successful fundraising year. The Kentwood Show Choir concert is certainly a high profile highlight for us! They have a great following and it is not surprising to understand why the choir draws such large and enthusiastic audiences. It offers an evening of brilliant entertainment with a unique blend of all types of music performed to the highest standards under the superb direction of Sheila. No wonder we see the audience leave our Hilton concert "on a high"! This year was no exception.

The Hilton Hotel is very generous donating the Lydiard Suite and all their facilities but, naturally, we have to fit in with their bookings. This means that we can only have an early August date and it has to be a Sunday but such is the depth of talent in the Choir it does not seem to make any difference! Once again this year, we had the added bonus of members of the hugely talented Junior Choir, which was greatly appreciated by the audience. The wonderful accompaniment of Paul Maguire and his unique solo "spot", together with the great band, meant that we had a feast of entertainment.

All the money raised goes to improving and maintaining cancer services in this area. With the addition of this years total, the Choir has raised over £32,000 since the concerts began! It is an astonishing amount of money and we are indebted to all who give their services free of charge enabling us to raise such huge sums of money. We are very grateful to David Wicks who has generously provided us with his super sound system since the concerts began and also to the many who donate our high quality raffle prizes. We are often overwhelmed by the generosity and compassion shown by the public for those who need help at a very traumatic time in their lives. A new addition to the Macmillan Cancer Support services offered is a Macmillan Benefits Advisor now in place at the Citizens Advice Bureau in Swindon. She is providing an invaluable service for those needing help with the complicated benefits application.

Each year people comment on the special atmosphere at the Hilton concert and it is something our Committee also appreciate. We are immensely grateful to Sheila, you, her superb Choir, for your kindness and generosity in providing us with such a wonderful fundraising event. We feel very privileged to have your wonderful support. Swindon and area are very lucky to have a superb Choir who are so willing to make such an effort to support charities and help them raise large sums of money.

We look forward to seeing you next year on 2nd August.

Gillian Thornton
Chairman



KENTWOOD SHOW CHOIR CONCERT AT CHILBOLTON

The Choir came to the Hampshire Village of Chilbolton for the first time on 6th September and gave a concert in aid of St Mary the Less Church. It was planned to take place in the grounds of the old rectory – Northwood House. Sadly the atrocious weather prevented the event from taking place outdoors so everyone packed into the Village Hall. However, the evening proved a resounding success and the singing and entertaining expertise of Kentwood gave huge enjoyment to the 160 people present.

Many letters and messages of appreciation have been received - I quote but a few :-

“ In appreciation of a very enjoyable and entertaining evening – delightful harmony and superb energy from the Choir”

“A truly wonderful evening”

“Big thank you for a most enjoyable evening from such a wonderful Choir”

“Everyone had a great time & the Choir was superb”

“We all agreed that the Choir was fabulous – it was really foot tapping stuff & Sheila played a difficult audience well, showing her professional gifts”

“A great experience for us”

“The Choir was so good and the soloists & Choir Mistress were outstanding”

“How much we enjoyed the Kentwood Choir – they were just wonderful, so much talent”

“Resounding Concert. It was marvellous & really uplifting (after all the misery of the weather!) Perhaps singing inside added to its amazing sound”

“Choir absolutely fantastic”

“Splendid Choir, splendid evening despite the rain”

“The close proximity of the Choir made us feel very privileged”

“Delightful harmony and superb energy from the Choir”

Thank you Sheila & Kentwood for a truly magnificent and memorable evening.

Diana Wild (nee Austin)
Old Headlandian !!!! and choir patron



FUTURE CONCERTS

2008

4 October	Assembly Hall, Melksham. S White (01225 704428)
31 October	Memorial Hall, Shrivenham. E Ware (01793 783026)
1&2 November	Junior Show, Arts Centre, Swindon. (01793 614837)
30 November	Christmas Cracker, Wyvern Theatre. (01793 524481)
17 December	Roves Farm. R Burr (01793 763939)
21 December	Bacon Theatre, Cheltenham (Guests of the Gloucester Flowers Band) - Ticket enquires: Laura Case, Band Secretary (07788140700)

2009

30 January	St Mary's Church, Castle Eaton. S Theobald (01285 810403)
3 April	St Mark's Church, Swindon. C Green (01793 721897)
24 April	Bromham Social Centre. M Lloyd-Evans (01380 850366)
8 May	St Mary's Church, Fairford. J Williams (01285 712127)
12 & 13 June	Kentwood Showcase 2009, Wyvern Theatre (01793 524481)
2 August	Hilton Hotel
29 November	Christmas Cracker, Wyvern Theatre. (01793 524481)
12 December	Evesham Methodist Church. B Powney (01386 760323)

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2009 sees the Swindon Music Festival celebrating its centennial. The syllabus is now available in booklet form from John Holmes Music, Faringdon Road or The Secretary (Yvonne Walker at the above address) or why not visit the website www.swindonmusicfestival.co.uk where the syllabus and entry form are readily available.

